

## Eye Care in Critical Care

Aim To provide guidance on nursing care for the eyes of patients in Critical Care Scope All adult patients in Critical Care.

Seek senior medical/ ophthalmology advice for patients with eye disease, infection or injury, including post-op eye surgery and chemo/radiotherapy related red eye. Assess eyes at the start of each shift, then 4 hourly Yes Is the patient able to blink without discomfort? Re-assess 4 hourly No Follow algorithm Do the eyelids close fully? Eyelids fully closed Eyelids partially closed Unclosed Eye (white of eye visible) (white of eye & iris visible) Clean with sterile gauze Clean with gauze and Clean with gauze and and sterile water sterile water sterile water Cover open area of each Instil one drop of 0.3% Cover open area of each eye with Lacrilube 2 hourly hypromellose to each eye eye with Lacrilube 4 hourly Consider taping eyelids 4 hourly closed, especially during Consider taping eyelids interventions eg proning, closed, especially during transfers & procedures. interventions eg proning, Inform ICU doctors transfers & procedures. High risk of eye injury Hypromellose & Lacrilube Remember Sources of Eye Injury

- · Use one bottle or tube for each eye

- Pressure injury from masks, proning or equipment
- · Label bottle/tube left and right for individual eyes Drying of eyes from poor eyelid closure
  - Direct eye trauma and corneal abrasion
- · Prescribe on CIS, date each bottle/tube and discard after 28 day in locked pendant draw
- Version 2.0 | Date: 03 Jan 14 | Revision Due: 03 Jan 16 | Authors: SN E Lasham, SN C Birkin, Dr N Tarmey

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